

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 42-50 and 62-82 are pending. Claims 62-82 are withdrawn. Claims 1-41 were canceled previously. Claims 51-60 are canceled by the present amendment.

Claim 42 is amended to recite features from now-canceled Claims 51, 55, and 56. Claim 42 is also amended to recite, in an alternative clause, features from Claims 57, 59, and 60. In other words, Claim 42 is amended in view of the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 42-49 and 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Droin (U.S. Patent No. 4,071,083) in view of Takayasu (U.S. Patent No. 5,874,178). Claim 50 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Droin, Takayasu, and Laber (U.S. Patent No. 4,182,408). Claims 51-55 and 57-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Droin, Takayasu, and Menicatti et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,899,813, herein "Menicatti"). Claims 56, 60, and 61 were indicated as reciting allowable subject matter.

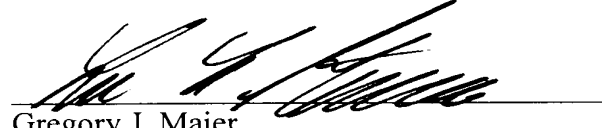
Claim 42 is amended to recite two alternatives. One alternative corresponds to the features recited in **Claims 51, 55, and 56**. Claim 56 was indicated in the outstanding Office Action as reciting allowable subject matter. The second alternative recites features from **Claims 57, 59, and 60**. Claim 60 was indicated in the outstanding Office Action as reciting allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the rejections based on Takayasu, Droin, Laber, and Menicatti are overcome. All of the claims depend, directly or indirectly, or incorporate the features of Claim 42 by reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 42 and all of the claims depending therefrom or incorporating the features of Claim 42 by reference are in condition for

allowance. As the present amendment merely incorporates the features of dependent claims in independent Claim 42, Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment raises no issues and should be entered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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